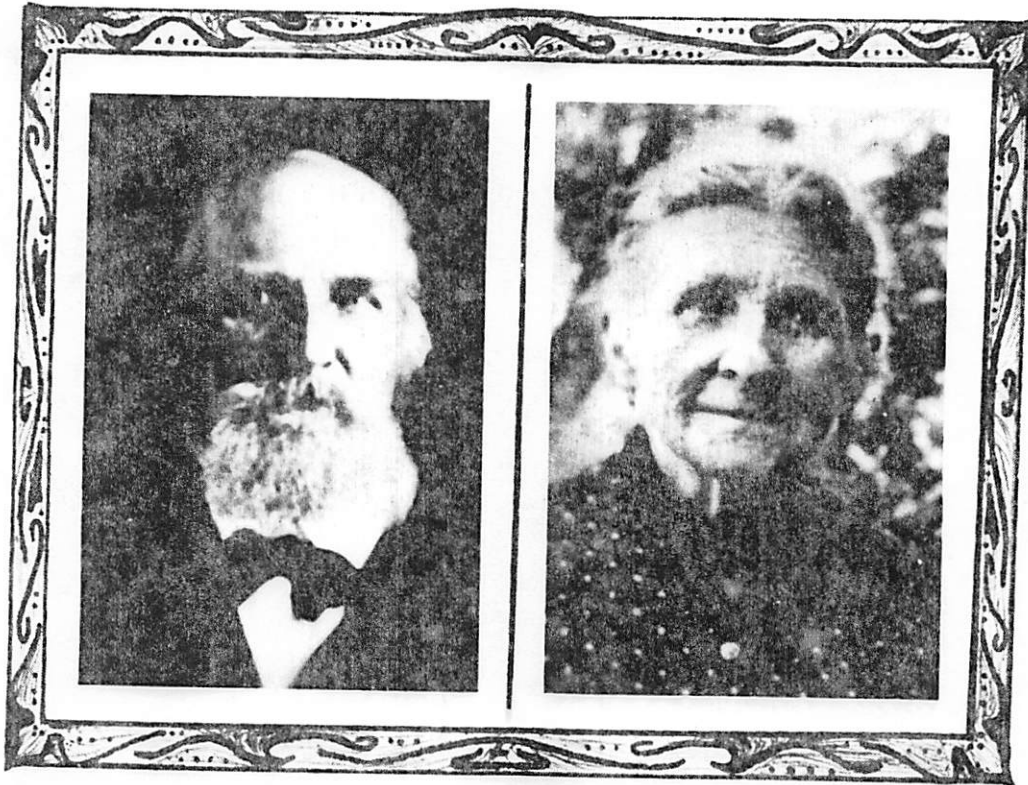


WILLIAM McDONALD — SARAH JANE SHIRTS



Early Life

William McDonald was born Nov. 16, 1834, at Crawfordsburn, a small town near Belfast, in County Down, Ireland. His father was James McDonald and his mother was Sarah Ferguson.

While he was still a young boy, two Mormon missionaries came to this home and told the family of the restoration of the gospel. This visit changed William's life. His parents accepted the missionaries' message whole-heartedly. They were baptized in 1841. From this time the family had one goal in mind — to raise the money necessary to leave Ireland and go to America where they could be with the body of the Church.

Although many of their friends turned against them when they joined the Mormon Church, the McDonald family had many warm friends among the members of the Crawfordsburn Branch of the Church. When it came time for them to leave for America, these friends held a social in their honor. Many came to see the family off and wish them well on their journey. One young man was crying as he said goodbye. William's father asked him why he was crying. He replied that he was

crying because he wanted to go to America, too. William's father asked him why he didn't come then if he had such a great desire. The young man replied that he couldn't go to America because he didn't have any money. William's father then offered to pay the young man's way and he joined the McDonald family in their journey to America. This young man later played a part in William's life.

William and his family landed at New Orleans and sailed up the Mississippi River by boat to Nauvoo where they lived for a time. Although William was just a young boy, he worked with his father in helping to complete the Nauvoo temple. When the saints were forced to leave Nauvoo, he worked with his father and his brothers to get the money necessary to buy two yoke of oxen and wagons and equipment for the family to cross the plains and join the saints in the Rocky Mountains.

Early Days in Utah

William was fifteen years of age when he arrived in Utah. The family spent the first winter

Wm McDonald